

Message Text

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SUBJECT: NIMETZ MEETING WITH AHEPA FACT-FINDING MISSION

1. IN JUNE 17 MEETING AT REQUEST OF AHEPA FACT-FINDING MIS-
SION, COUNSELOR NIMETZ REVIEWED US POLICY IN EASTERN MEDI-
TERRANEAN, WITH PARTICULAR FOCUS ON CYPRUS AND AEGEAN. DIS-
CUSSION OF US POLICY AIMS PARALLELED VIEWS EXPRESSED BY
NIMETZ IN JUNE 16 INTERVIEW WITH PROF. NICK STAVROU (SEPTTEL).
NIMETZ ALSO EMPHASIZED PARTIES TO AEGEAN AND CYPRUS PRO-
BLEMS MUST WORK OUT MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTIONS; US POWER
IS LIMITED, AND US CANNOT SIMPLY DICTATE TERMS OF SETTLE-
MENT OR ENFORCE ITS WILL.

2. NIMETZ THOUGHT CYPRUS PERHAPS THE "EASIER" PROBLEM IN
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THAT OUTLINES OF SOLUTION WERE CLEARER, INVOLVING WITHDRAWAL
OF NON-BRITISH FOREIGN TROOPS, RETURN OF SOME TURKISH
CYPRIOT TERRITORY, DEVELOPMENT OF ACCEPTABLE CONSTITUTION,
AND ESTABLISHMENT OF TWO ZONES WITHIN UNITED COUNTRY. US
HAD NO PLANS TO INTRUDE INTO SUBSTANCE OF NEGOTIATING PRO-
CESS, OR TO PROPOSE SPECIFIC TERRITORIAL BOUNDARIES OR CON-
STITUTIONAL PROVISIONS UNLESS BOTH SIDES SPECIFICALLY

REQUEST IT.

3. NIMETZ SAW MAKARIOS AS KEY TO SOLUTION: ONLY HE COULD MUSTER SUFFICIENT DOMESTIC SUPPORT FOR SOLUTION WHICH WAS CERTAIN TO BE CONTROVERSIAL. DENKTASH'S FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT WAS LIMITED. WE BELIEVE ECEVIT WOULD BE POSITIVELY INCLINED TOWARD A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT. WE BELIEVE SETTLEMENT WOULD BENEFIT TURKEY, BUT TURKS COULD MAKE NO NEW COMMITMENTS DURING RECENT ELECTION CAMPAIGN. IF TURKEY CAN DEVELOP RELATIVELY STABLE GOVERNMENT, WE ARE HOPEFUL OF FURTHER PROGRESS ON CYPRUS.

4. NIMETZ EXPLAINED ADMINISTRATION'S DECISION TO LET STAND PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION'S DECISION TO REQUEST NO REFUGEE ASSISTANCE FOR CYPRUS AS BASED ON STRENGTH OF GREEK CYPRIOT ECONOMY AND FACT THAT SOME PREVIOUSLY APPROPRIATED BUT UNSPENT US AID REMAINED AVAILABLE.

5. AEGEAN ISSUES, PARTICULARLY CONTINENTAL SHELF, SAID NIMETZ, ARE "NEWER" AND MORE THEORETICAL. HE POINTED TO US DISAGREEMENTS WITH CANADA AND BAHAMAS, AND FORMER DENMARK-FRG-NETHERLANDS DISPUTES AS EXAMPLES OF EXTREME DIFFICULTY OF CONTINENTAL SHELF QUESTIONS EVEN WHERE WILL TO AGREE EXISTS ON BOTH SIDES. NIMETZ NOTED US POLICY WAS NOT TO GET INVOLVED OURSELVES, BUT TO URGE PARTIES TO WORK OUT BETWEEN THEM AND TO AVOID THREATS OR ACTS OF VIOLENCE. HE CONFIDENTIAL

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NOTED NEITHER SIDE HAD REQUESTED WE PLAY ANY MORE ACTIVE ROLE. NIMETZ ADDED THAT CLIFFORD MISSION GOT IMPRESSION THAT WHILE TURKS WERE INTERESTED IN CONTINENTAL SHELF ISSUE, THEY DID NOT INTEND TO THREATEN GREEK ISLANDS IN AEGEAN.

6. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, NIMETZ SAID THAT WHILE WE HAD SHIFTED SOME OPERATIONS ELSEWHERE, WE STILL VALUED US BASES IN TURKEY BOTH FOR THEIR INTELLIGENCE AND NATO FUNCTIONS. US PREFERRED TO ENCOURAGE TURKEY TO REMAIN ORIENTED TOWARD WEST. DANGER WAS NOT SO MUCH THAT TURKS WOULD ALIGN SELVES WITH SOVIETS, BUT THAT RETREAT FROM WEST COULD VERY WELL ENTAIL REORIENTATION TOWARD MUSLIM NEIGHBORS IN MIDDLE EAST AND REJECTION OF AREAS OF MUTUAL INTEREST (NATO AMONG OTHERS) WHICH NOW PROVIDE US WITH MODEST AMOUNT OF INFLUENCE. VANCE

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